

# white christmas "silent night"

**W**ith melodic tunes and Christmas spirit in the air, this year's Christmas stage band show was definitely a night to remember. The most talented performers were brought to the stage with excellent lighting, amazing props, and spectacular effects. Attendees from all around the state came and filled the auditorium as they watched with immense joy. The show opened up with a warm welcome from stage band director Clay Whittington and following after was Loryn Hollis, Anna Grace Thomas and Molly Rushing with "Christmas Lullaby."

Everyone joined together to harmonize with "Silent Night" and finished just as the steel pans entered the stage. The steel pans played "Pan Christmas" alongside Clay Whittington. The crowd wooed with warm hearts as children joined the singers and dancers on stage presenting "Man with the Bag." After a quick change in set, the singers joined the stage once again in their new costumes with southern plaid shirts, cowboy hats, and cowboy boots to perform a "Country Jamboree" with a few jokes to make the crowd giggle and songs to please the ear. With another change in set, Southwest choir director Joe Elliott introduces the choir to carol the audience with a few spiritual hymnals.

John Calcote took a moment to change the mood with an astonishing trombone solo of "I'll Be Home for Christmas." The guest quartet, Four the King, were even joined by President Dr. Steve Bishop one night when one of the four couldn't make it. On Saturday night the show was pleasantly welcomed with a visit from Santa Clause. Santa invited the children in the audience to join on stage and receive a special early Christmas gift. After this, a group of alumni also joined the program to sing an outstanding song with the performers. "White Christmas," "Boogie Woogie Santa Clause," and "Run Rudolph Run" were sung with excellent vocals, guitar solos by Nelson Ott, and thrilling notes by the rest of the band.

"Jesus What a Wonderful Name" ended the show with enough holiday spirit to last until Christmas day. With the Redline's dance moves and singers smiling faces, the crowd was sure to leave with a song stuck in their head and a groove in their feet. Faculty and staff were active in the planning and success of one of the community's favorite holiday traditions. Many contributed to the production, and their dedication did not go unnoticed by the performers or the audience.

by Morgan Michelle Lawrence and Charlie-Anne Steen

right: Brianna Nelson and William Fauver gaze at baby Jesus; far right: Conner Cagle, Daniel Little, and William Fauver amuse the crowd with their comedy routine; opposite page: Haven Johnson wows the crowd with her solo of "Noel."





